

C. Remarks

The claims are 1, 3, and 11 with claim 1 being independent. Claim 1 has been amended to clarify the invention. Support for this amendment may be found, for example, in the substitute specification at pages 8 and 9, as well as in the drawings. Claim 11 has been amended to reflect the changes made in claim 1. No new matter has been added. Reconsideration of these claims is expressly requested.

interview record ok
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Further to the Statement of the Substance of the Interview filed on May 3, 2011, Applicants would like again to thank the Examiner for the courtesies extended during the interview conducted on April 20, 2011. Various issues discussed during the interview are summarised in that submission, as well as in the Examiner's Interview Summary mailed on May 9, 2011. The present Amendment is filed to further address some of these issues.

Both during the interview and in the Interview Summary, the Examiner indicated that U.S. Patent No. 4,825,249 (Oki) appears to inherently disclose impregnation of the coating material into the urethane resin to carry out the reaction, particularly in view of the use of the dipping method. As Applicants' attorney pointed out during the interview, reaction with the groups on the surface of the urethane resin does not necessitate penetration into the resin. Reaction on the surface, rather than below the surface, is explicitly mentioned by Oki at column 2, lines 39-41.